1: Linton E-5 (1926-27) 1933 FY8 Tanala FY8

apprenticeship. A boy who becomes interested in the trade will hang about the smith's workshop, blowing the bellows for him and doing other minor tasks. Finally he will be allowed to help with the forging and may accompany the smith on his travels. When he thinks that he knows the trade, he will set up in business for himself. No regular payment is made to the teacher, but if the new smith prospers, it is customary for him to visit his former master, thank him publicly, and present him with an ox. 326

Every smith has a house and land in some particular village and spends most of his time there. During the slack season between harvest and the next planting, the smiths travel about repairing old implements and forging new ones. When a man is in need of the smith's services, he first bargains with him, then, when the price has been fixed, takes him into his house and feeds him until the task is completed. Smiths seem to be much more numerous among the Ikongo than among the Menabe.

The stonecutters are mostly Betsileo living among the Tanala. They go where their services are required and are similarly boarded during the work. 324

As far as I could learn, there are no ceremonial observances or taboos connected with any industry. There seem to be no charms to give success in occupations, with the possible exception of house building, although I was unable to get a satisfactory check on this for metal working. 777

METAL WORKING

According to Tanala traditions, the aborigines of their territory were ignorant of the use of metal, but the ancestors of all the invading gentes were familiar with iron at the time they entered the region. The next metal to become known to them was silver. There are no known deposits of silver ore in Madagascar and the metal was certainly obtained from Arabs or Europeans. Nevertheless, the Tanala have no legends of its introduction. It has been thoroughly incorporated into the culture, figuring in the invocations to the gods and in a number of rites and ceremonies. In general, it seems to occupy the place that gold occupies among the tribes of the plateau and west coast. 325 135 [439]

Gold, in the form of dust or small nuggets, is found throughout much of the Tanala territory, but the Tanala themselves make no use of it and seem to have no beliefs in regard to it. It does not figure in any ceremony, and is mentioned in only one or two invocations.